

USSN: 10/690,425

Docket No.: 55421US023

Remarks

The specification has been editorially amended. Claims 2 and 5 have been amended to recite applying directly to the hardcoat layer a curable antisoiling layer comprising a perfluoropolyether, and polymerizing the antisoiling layer. Support for these amendments may be found in the written description at, e.g., page 16, line 31 and page 23, lines 9 – 13. Following entry of this amendment, claims 1 – 13 will be pending in this application, with claims 7 – 13 having been allowed.

Rejection of Claims 1 – 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1 – 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Published PCT Application No. WO 99/37720. Reconsideration is requested. WO 99/37720 forms a hardcoat layer atop a polyester film (see e.g., page 22, lines 1 – 28), forms an inorganic antireflective coating atop the hardcoat layer (see e.g., page 22, line 29 through page 23, line 3) and condenses a perfluoropolyether amidoalkoxysilane onto the inorganic hardcoat layer (see e.g., page 14, lines 1 – 9). As to applicants' claim 1, WO 99/37720 does not coat and cure atop a ceramer coating an antisoiling layer comprising a "free-radically polymerizable fluorochemical". Such antisoiling layers may provide especially durable antisoiling performance (see e.g., Examples 7 – 24 in Table 2, Examples 25 – 32, Example 38 and Example 39). As to applicants' claims 2 – 6, WO 99/37720 does not apply an antisoiling layer directly to a hardcoat layer. Applicants form a simpler structure without requiring the intervening antireflection layer employed in WO 99/37720. Applicants accordingly request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 – 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 99/37720.

Conclusion

Applicants have made an earnest effort to address the rejection. WO 99/37720 does not coat and cure atop a ceramer coating an antisoiling layer comprising a free-radically polymerizable fluorochemical as recited in applicants' claim 1. WO 99/37720 does not apply an antisoiling layer directly to a hardcoat layer as recited in applicants' claims 2 – 6. Withdrawal of the rejection and passage of the application to the issue branch are respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any questions regarding this amendment.

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Respectfully submitted on behalf of 3M
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